

As soon as the furious blizzard came on, the various gangs of men had converged again to their starting point, in order to meet the ship. But they found no signs of her, and soon their desperate situation began to dawn upon them; it became apparent that the ice had turned round so that they did not know which way to go and look for her—they realized that they were lost in that vast floating ice field. After earnest consultation among the leaders, they determined to separate into parties, under the various masters of watches. Each party was then to set out in a different direction, and they hoped that, by taking different points of the compass, one lot might reach the ship and be able to direct a rescue party towards the others. Sad farewells and silent hand shakes had to be taken—farewells which for many meant the last on earth. For now began a most desperate struggle for existence. All the men were lightly clothed—nor was there any food among them. Two parties, led by William Davies and Jesse Knece, both men of great experience—came through fairly well, for they found rough ice, and were able to erect rude shelters made of large blocks. In these they passed the night huddled close together, to cherish the limited stock of heat their bodies would supply. In God's providence morning found them all alive, and the following afternoon all reached the ship in safety, save for a few "frost burns." One party made a fire on the ice by cutting the wood handles of their seal gaffs into chips, which, together with their tow ropes, they then soaked in seal fat and lit. Over this they partly roasted the carcass of a seal, and even this small addition to their reserve strength pulled several through that awful ordeal—one man is said to have saved himself by smearing seal fat and blood over himself and letting it freeze on. Some poor fellows, finding the ice too smooth and too hard to cut blocks from without tools, gave way to utter despair and wandered hopelessly to and fro in the darkness. Their cries of distress were pitiful to hear, while every now and again one more voice would be silenced, as the poor sufferer fell headlong through a fissure in the ice, or a blow hole left by the seals, and so found rest at last in the chilly waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

The tales of individual survivors are pathetic indeed. One man narrates how with many others he camped on a good sized pan as night fell. The shelter obtainable was of the very poorest, and as early as ten o'clock one of their number, a stowaway in the ship, died. "As we didn't like staying in the pan with the corpse," he writes, "we moved into another pan and made a fresh shelter, as best we could. Early on Tuesday morning another of our number lost his reason. He got up and rushed about among the men crying out 'The ship is coming! Here is the ship!' This livened our poor fellows a bit, and many getting up on to their legs staggered off in different directions, expecting to find her. But, alas! the alarm was a false one, and the men, after dragging along some distance in different directions, were soon lost in the blinding snow storms. Some fell on the smooth ice and could not rise again, others walked deliberately into the water and were drowned, others just lay down and slept their long last sleep alone. One man relates how he spent the night on a pan with seven others. "We walked round and round and round all night. We knew, if we gave way to the peculiar drowsiness we felt, we should certainly never wake again, and we tried several times to make a shelter, but we could make no success of it. By Tuesday morning two of us lay dead on this pan. When the ship at last came in sight we could hardly understand what it was." Another says, "There were two lots of us near one another about two gunshots apart. Our men kept kicking one another and running round to rouse themselves—beating our hands together and stamping on the ice. By morning five corpses lay around us. All sorts of queer views kept passing through my mind. I could see beautiful houses and gardens. One man fell into the water near me, but another pulled him out. Poor fellow, he bravely struggled on to the top of life in him by moving about, but at last he sank down and was soon frozen. Some were raving now, and one in his delirium seized one young fellow who lay dying, and took off one of his army clothes while yet he lived. Both of these men were soon lying near one another dead. At last the steamer was really in sight, and I was getting near it but I dropped a hundred yards away and remember no more till I found myself on board." Another says, "I saw my nephew fall forward on the ice as I had seen others do, but a friend went and picked him up, rubbed him and tended him so well that he was actually the means of saving the lad's life. We camped in an ice shelter soon after until morning—but when I got up there were five men sitting dead around me."

It was terrible work that the relief party had to do, and terrible sights they had to witness. Some poor fellows fell dead just as their rescuers reached them, some thought they were all right, and only found out their awful condition when they were taken to the warmth of the ship. Strong men as they were, and accustomed to hard times, many shed bitter tears as fresh evidences of awful suffering heroically borne by their friends kept being brought to light. By sundown on Wednesday twenty-three men were still missing. Twenty-five bodies had been recovered—five living men had returned from the sealer Iceland, and one from the sealer Digna. All

three ships were now diligently searching the ice for any traces of the rest of the crew but none were found, though for three days and nights an unwearying search was kept up by all three steamers. It was quite evident the rest had perished. It now became imperative for the Greenland to hasten home, and carry the injured to where skilled assistance was available, and so endeavor to save limbs and senses injured by the exposure. Under a pall of ice on deck she bore the sorry cargo of her frozen crew.

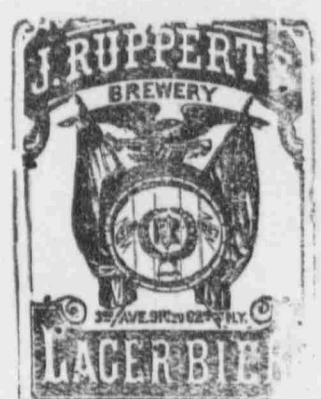
TRICHINOSIS.—The British tourist has a great mistrust of foreign sausages, and, if a traveller in Germany watches the diners at a restaurant, he will generally find that those who come from the United Kingdom look askance at the *Delicatessen* and absolutely reject a *Wurst*. They have heard of a disease caused by a parasite derived from sausages and badly cooked pork, and their fears are not groundless. Even the native is aware of the danger, and some thirty years since this fact was made the subject of a caricature in a German paper. A professor had ordered a sausage, and when the waiter asked, "With sauerkraut?" the man of science retorted: "No; with a microscope!" As the parasite invades the muscles, the classical mode of making the diagnosis is to remove a piece of muscular tissue from a muscle, by means of a punch, after the application of cocaine. Usually the parasite can then readily be detected by the microscope. But the test may fail. Dr. Thomas Brown, Baltimore, has recently published some valuable researches on the pathology of this disease based on the examination of three cases. He finds a remarkable change in the blood as the result of trichinosis. The normal proportion of the eosinophilic cells to all the white cells is from about 2 to 4 per cent. In trichinosis there is a great increase of white cells, but this leucocytosis is of a special kind. An extraordinary relative and absolute increase of eosinophiles occurs. In one severe case they rose to 68 per cent. when the symptoms were at their height. The proportion fell in all cases as the patient got better. This excess must profoundly affect nutrition, if it be true, as Kanthack and Hardy believe, that, unlike other leucocytes, the eosinophile cannot act as a phagocyte.—*British Medical Journal*.

THE GREAT STRENGTH OF BEARS.—The strength of grizzly bears is almost beyond belief, says a hunter. I have read about the powerful muscles in the arms of African gorillas, but none compare with those in the arms and shoulders of big grizzly bears. I have seen a grizzly bear with one forepaw shot into uselessness pull its own 1,100 pounds of meat and bone up precipices, and perform feats of muscle that trained athletes could not do. I have seen grizzly bears carrying the carcasses of moose that must have weighed seventy pounds several miles across a mountain side to their lair, and I have heard hunters tell of having seen cows knocked down as if by a thunderbolt with one blow from the forepaw of a bear. Three summers ago I spent the season in the coast mountains, near Hudson's Bay, and one moonlight night I saw a big grizzly bear in the act of carrying a dead cow home to her cub. I had a position on the mountain side where I could see every movement of the bear in the sparsely timbered valley below me. The creature carried the dead cow in forepaws for at least three miles, across jagged, sharp rocks ten feet high, over fallen logs, around the rocky mountain sides, where even a jackass could not get a foothold, to a narrow trail up the steep mountain. She never stopped to rest a moment, but went right along. I followed, and just about half a mile from the beast's lair I laid her low. The heifer weighed at least 200 pounds, and the bear about 450.

THE USE OF OXYGEN BY AERONAUTS.—The remarkable balloon ascent made by Mr. Sanley Spencer and Dr. Berson, when the great altitude of 27,500 feet was attained, is interesting among other things for the fact that the respiration of oxygen was found of great service in relieving the oppression to the breathing which was caused by the extreme rarefaction of the air. The highest balloon ascent on record is that made by Messrs. Glaisher and Coxwell in 1862, when an altitude of upwards of 29,000 feet is stated to have been reached. Before this height had been attained Mr. Glaisher lost consciousness, and Mr. Coxwell nearly became insensible. The exertion of breathing must itself be very considerable when the air is so rarefied, as we must at once recognize when we remember that at the height reached by Coxwell the barometer stood at only 7 inches as compared with 29 inches at the surface of the earth, so that each inspiration would give less than one-fourth the usual quantity of air, even without reckoning any diminished activity of gaseous exchange. It is hoped that by breathing oxygen instead of ordinary air it may be possible to reach still greater heights without interference with vital functions.—*Hospital*.

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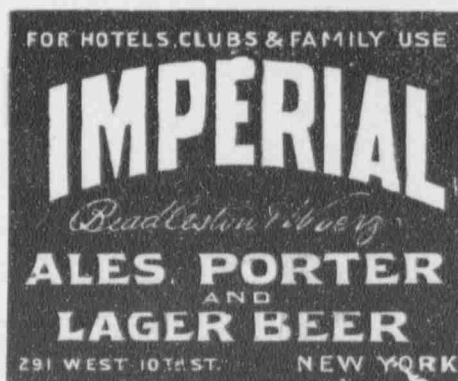
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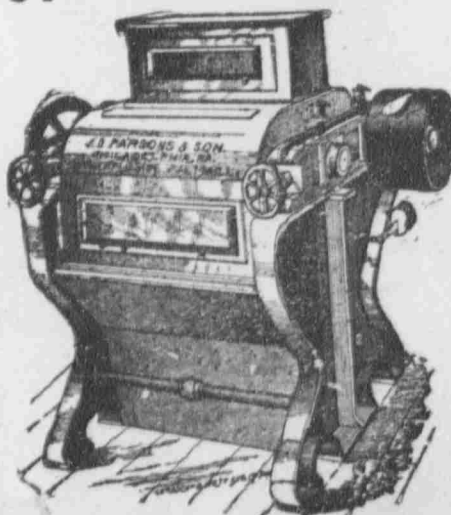
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